

the Immaculate Conception Church in his hometown of Watertown, SD.

Over the years Father Robert has faithfully served the Catholic church in many different parishes across eastern South Dakota. He has been ministering in Alexandria since 1985. During his career Father Robert has authored 20 books and numerous articles in Catholic publications. He also has taken pilgrimages with 3,000 youth. Certainly, South Dakotans of all ages have benefited from his very active career of service.

I am just one of many South Dakotans who have profited from Father Robert's wisdom. His valuable advice will always be greatly appreciated. He is loved and respected by many. I am honored to join in observing this very special occasion for Father Robert.

THE DEATH OF JOHN F. BLAKE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the CIA, the Senate Intelligence Committee and our country lost a loyal servant on March 27 when Jack Blake passed away after a long illness. Jack was an OSS veteran who became one of the CIA's premier managers, serving as its director of logistics, Deputy Director for Administration and acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. He also served as president of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers.

In 1981, when Senator Barry Goldwater became the first Republican to chair the Select Committee on Intelligence, he chose Jack Blake to be staff director of the committee. Together, Senator Goldwater and Jack Blake established the principle that the transfer from a Democratic to a Republican majority would not mean an end to the Senate's bipartisan oversight of sensitive national security matters. They also made the point that the intelligence community's best friends were capable of examining its activities with a critical eye, for the sake of improving this vital function and safeguarding the liberties of our citizens.

Jack Blake went on to become a professor at the Defense Intelligence College and frequently brought his classes back to the Hill to meet with congressional overseers and see for themselves that we were not monsters, but people of good will. His tremendous good humor and perseverance served him and his country well. We will miss Jack Blake, but we will also continue to profit from his life of good works. The Senate was fortunate to have known him.

THE DEATH OF RICHARD E. CURL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, our Nation lost a valuable member of its national security team recently, when Richard E. Curl died at the age of 77. Dick Curl was Director of the Office of Intelligence Resources in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He was not the former Director, not the retiring Director, but very

much the active Director of that office, even at the age of 77.

Dick Curl devoted his life to intelligence. He served as a naval intelligence officer in both World War II and the Korean war, and with the State Department between those wars. And Dick began his work for INR in 1952. Overall, he gave his country over half a century of service.

Mr. Curl's obituary states that his work "involved contact with various foreign intelligence services as well as U.S. intelligence agencies." Suffice it to say that his role was often that of a mediator between the two different cultures, explaining the uses of intelligence to policymakers and Foreign Service officers while also ensuring that the risks and benefits of intelligence operations were weighed in light of broader U.S. policy interests that might be affected if something went wrong. Much of Dick Curl's career was spent teaching the policy and intelligence communities to listen to each other.

The staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence knew Mr. Curl since at least the early 1980's. They found him a valuable source of information and good counsel. Dick Curl will be missed by both the committee and his country.

RURAL SUMMIT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor for a different purpose today, however. I want to describe something that is happening tomorrow in Ames, IA, and something that happened last Friday in Bismarck, ND.

Some many months ago, I and Congressman DICK DURBIN, from Illinois, asked President Clinton to host a rural summit in our country prior to the writing of the new 5-year farm bill in Congress this year. The President took our suggestion and set December 1 of last year as a date for a rural summit. It would be the first ever of its kind held in this country prior to the writing of a new farm bill.

On December 1, it turned out that the Senate was going to reconvene and vote on the GATT treaty, and the result was the rural summit had to be postponed. The President was required to remain in Washington, and others who were to participate were to remain here as well. A new date was set, and that new date is tomorrow.

The President, the Vice President, the Secretary of Agriculture, and other Cabinet Members will go to Ames, IA, and they will convene a rural summit. The purpose of that is to discuss, before the new farm bill is written, what works and what does not in rural America, what kind of a farm program works to save family farmers, to try to provide an injection of economic life into rural economies; how can we improve on it, how can we change it, how can we offer more hope to rural America?

I give great credit to President Clinton for his willingness to do this. It is

long overdue that we take a fresh look at all of the programs and all of the initiatives and all of the efforts that are designed to try to help rural America. This is, after all, one country, not many countries, and the one country includes, yes, some of the biggest cities but also some of the smallest counties.

In my home county in rural North Dakota, as an example, where fewer than several thousand people live in the entire county, they lost 20 percent of their population in that county in the 1980's. In the first 5 years of the 1990's, from 1990 to 1995, the new census report shows they lost another 11 percent of their population.

The flip side of economic stress, that we register in the cities by taking a look at poverty and unemployment, for rural America is out migration, people getting in their car and leaving because there is no opportunity, they feel, in rural counties. What is happening in rural America is that many rural counties and rural areas are shrinking like prunes. The lifeblood is leaving these rural counties.

And so the question is what works and what does not, what kind of a farm plan, what kind of a rural economic development policy should we have in rural America to give everybody in this country a chance; yes, even those who live in sparsely populated areas.

Prior to the summit that will be held in Ames, IA, tomorrow, the President asked the new Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, to hold six regional forums around the country, and he has done that. I believe the last one is today in Illinois. He held one of those six forums in Bismarck, ND, last Friday.

At that forum, the Secretary of Agriculture brought along most of the Assistant Secretaries, and they were all there as a team from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to listen to family farmers. About 700 to 800 people crowded into this facility, the Farmers Livestock Exchange, to spend 3 hours at this forum. Another probably 200 people could not get into the facility, but because it was broadcast on a couple of radio stations, there were people sitting in the parking lot listening to their radios to hear the discussion during these 3 hours about rural America, about the farm bill, and about what works to try to rescue, revive, and breathe some life into rural America.

I know this subject would not sound very interesting or important to a lot of Americans. Most Americans take a look at rural America or farmers and they do not think much about them. They go to the store and buy elbow macaroni, and it is in a carton. Well, elbow macaroni does not come in a carton. That is the way it is sold, but it comes from semolina flour. You get that by grinding durum wheat that comes from the wheat field of someone who, most often, is a family farmer who risks all of his economic strength